

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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K'U-ERH-LO IRRIGATION SYSTEM PROJECTED

The Sinkiang Provincial Irrigation Department is considering development of fertile uncultivated land along the northwest shore of Pao-t'ou-hu below Sha-i-li-k'o, which is 38 kilometers southwest of K'ung-ch'iao Ho in K'u-erh-lo Hsien.

Several unsuccessful undertakings to irrigate the area have been attempted in the past by local citizens and by the people of Wei-li, Lun-t'ai, and K'u-er-lo hsien. Reluctant to permit such a rich region to remain unproductive, they have appealed for governmental cooperation on an irrigation project. A survey of the locality was made in December 1948 by the Yen-ch'i Irrigation Engineering Bureau. An effective irrigation system would supply water to about 15,000 mou [6.6 mou equal one acre] of farm lands. If it is possible to discharge water at 2.5 cubic feet per second, 20,000-30,000 mou would benefit.

A plan for the construction of a conduit about 15-16 kilometers long from the K'uang-ch'iao Ho is reported to have been devised by the Irrigation Department. According to a department member, preparatory work will commence immediately upon approval by the provincial government. Barring financial difficulties, the stretch of land along Sha-i-li-k'o should be converted into usefulness this year.

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